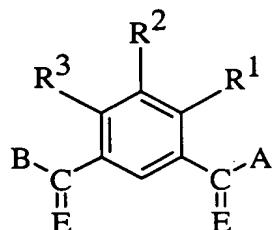


ABSTRACT

Selective MMP-13 inhibitors are isophthalic acid derivatives of the formula



5 wherein:

R¹, R², and R³ independently are hydrogen, halo, hydroxy, C₁-C₆ alkyl, C₁-C₆ alkoxy, C₂-C₆ alkenyl, C₂-C₆ alkynyl, NO₂, NR⁴R⁵, CN, or CF₃;

E is independently O or S;

A and B independently are OR⁴ or NR⁴R⁵;

10 each R⁴ and R⁵ independently are H, C₁-C₆ alkyl, C₂-C₆ alkenyl, C₂-C₆ alkynyl, (CH₂)_n aryl, (CH₂)_n cycloalkyl, (CH₂)_n heteroaryl, or R⁴ and R⁵ when taken together with the nitrogen to which they are attached complete a 3- to 8-membered ring, optionally containing a heteroatom selected from O, S, or NH, and optionally substituted or unsubstituted;

15 n is 0 to 6;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof. The compounds are useful for treating diseases in a mammal that are mediated by MMP enzymes.